

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of May 20, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 14-17 as being of improper dependent form; and rejected claims 1-6 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,752,241) in view of Motiduki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,110).

The objection to claims 14-17 is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments above.

The rejection of claims 1-6 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka et al. in view of Motiduki et al. is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is patentable over Matsuoka et al. in view of Motiduki et al. in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a connector for electrically connecting the electrode of the lamp to the wire, directly contacting the electrode of the lamp and a portion of the wire, wherein the connector includes: a first curved wing for directly contacting the electrode of the lamp; and a second curved wing for directly contacting a portion of the wire." Neither Matsuoka et al. nor Motiduki et al., singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant

respectfully submits that claims 2 and 4-6, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Matsuoka et al. in view of Motiduki et al.

Claim 13 is patentable over Matsuoka et al. in view of Motiduki et al. in that claim 13 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a connector including electrically conductive material, wherein the connector directly contacts the electrode and the wire, wherein the connector includes: a first curved portion directly contacting the electrode; and a second curved portion directly contacting the wire.” Neither Matsuoka et al. nor Motiduki et al., singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14, 15, and 17, which depend from claim 13, are also patentable over Matsuoka et al. in view of Motiduki et al.

Further, in the present Office Action, the Examiner asserts, with respect to claims 4, 5, and 15, “the method of forming a device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the devices itself” and concludes the elements of claims 4, 5, and 15 “[have] not been given patentable weight.” Nevertheless, claim 4 recites “wherein the unifying means is an injection molded product...,” claim 5 recites “wherein a material of the injection molded product...,” and claim 15 recites “wherein the holder includes injection molded material.” It is respectfully submitted that these elements are not actually directed to a method of forming the claimed devices. Rather, claims 4, 5, and 15 define the device by the steps in which the device is made (see M.P.E.P. § 2113). Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the elements of claims 4, 5, and 15 be given patentable weight.

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Reply dated October 20, 2004
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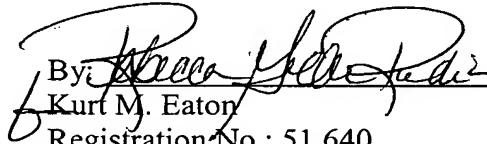
Docket No.: 8733.543.00

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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